

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED:

Suba 7

1. A method of implementing a service in a cable system, comprising:
receiving at a set-top box (STB) application level data generated by a service,
where said application level data represents a service offering comprising:
 - 5 service data identifying particular services within the service offering, and
routing data identifying the location of said service in said cable system;
identifying at least one of said particular service within said service offering; and
generating a session request to receive the identified at least one particular
service, wherein said session request includes said routing data.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting said session request to
said service, wherein said service is located at a headend of the cable system.
- 15 3. The method of claim 2, further comprising parsing said session request at said
service to extract the identified at least one particular service.
4. The method of claim 3, further comprising determining the location of the
identified at least one particular service in said cable system.
- 20 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said routing data further identifies the location of
a session gateway in said cable system.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein generating a session request comprises
generating a session request at a generic session manager of the STB to receive the
25 identified at least one particular service, wherein said session request includes said
routing data and said service data.
7. A system for administering a session in a cable system, comprising:
a service residing in said cable system;
30 at least one set-top box, wherein the at least one set-top box is in communication with
said service and generates a request to the service; and

wherein said request comprises routing information identifying the location of said service and session data identifying a particular service requested.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the at least one set-top box comprises a generic session manager, and wherein said generic session manager generates said request.

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9. The system of claim 7, further comprising at least one server located at a headend of the cable system and in communication with said service.

10 10. The system of claim 9, wherein the at least one server comprises a session manager, and wherein the service communicates with said session manager to identify the particular service requested.

15 11. The system of claim 9, wherein the at least one server comprises a session manager, and wherein said session manager communicates with said cable system to establish a communication path through which to implement said service.

12. The system of claim 7, further comprising a session resource manager, wherein the session resource manager identifies available resources of said cable system.

20 13. The system of claim 7, further comprising at least one session gateway in communication with said set-top box and said service, wherein said request comprises routing information identifying the at least one session gateway.

14. The system of claim 13, further comprising at least one service gateway in communication with said at least one session gateway, and wherein said request further comprises routing information identifying the at least one service gateway.

25 15. A method of fulfilling a session request in a cable system, comprising:
30 receiving a session request at a service, wherein said session request identifies the location of said service in said cable system and the generator of said session request;

parsing said session request to identify at least one particular service identified within said session request; and

forwarding said at least one particular service identified within said session request to said generator.

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16. The method of claim 15, further comprising querying at least one service to determine the location of the at least one particular service in said cable system.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising executing, at said service, an instruction to the determined location to forward said at least one particular service to said generator.

18. A session request generated by a generic session manager within a set-top box, comprising:

15 session data identifying a particular service identified by a service, and routing data identifying the location of said service in said cable system.

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